



PSC NEWS

Missouri Public Service Commission

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PSC APPROVES AGREEMENT GRANTING SUSPENSION OF LOCAL NUMBER PORTABILITY IMPLEMENTATION FOR NEW FLORENCE TELEPHONE

Jefferson City (July 30, 2004)---The Missouri Public Service Commission has approved an agreement seeking a suspension of requirements for New Florence Telephone Company to implement local number portability (LNP) in its service area. The agreement approved by the Commission grants a two-year suspension. The agreement also grants modifications regarding call rating and routing issues.

New Florence Telephone Company sought the suspension because its facilities are not currently LNP-capable. New Florence indicated that implementation of LNP would require the telephone company to incur substantial implementation costs and monthly recurring costs that the telephone company may recover in accordance with FCC rules from its customers. New Florence's estimated LNP charge necessary to recover implementation and recurring costs is approximately \$4.84 per line, per month.

Under LNP, a customer would be able to take his/her land line telephone number to another provider (such as wireless).

The agreement presented to the Commission sought the two-year suspension in order for New Florence Telephone Company to avoid the imposition of a significant adverse economic impact on its subscribers and to avoid imposing an undue economic burden on the telephone company. The agreement also noted that the suspension would ensure that subscribers would not be forced to bear the costs for something from which they are unlikely to benefit.

The Commission stated that granting the suspension and modification is consistent with federal law in that "it is necessary to avoid a significant adverse economic impact on users of telecommunications services generally and to avoid imposing a requirement that is unduly economically burdensome".

The agreement approved by the Commission was submitted by New Florence Telephone Company, the Office of the Public Counsel and the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission.

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Case No. TO-2004-0503